



# Penny Bernard Schaber

STATE REPRESENTATIVE 57th ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

*Serving the heart of Appleton*

For Immediate Release  
September 1, 2010

Contact: Rep. Bernard Schaber  
608-266-3070

## **Rep. Bernard Schaber's E-Waste Recycling Law Takes Effect**

APPLETON- Legislation authored by State Representative Bernard Schaber (D- Appleton) takes effect today. The electronic waste law, Act 50, requires manufactures to collect and recycle certain electronic devices including computers, televisions and printers. It establishes recycling targets for manufacturers based on the amount of sales they make. The bill passed last year with strong, bipartisan majorities in both houses of the Legislature.

"This is an important piece of public health legislation for the State of Wisconsin," said Representative Bernard Schaber. "Electronic equipment poses a significant health hazard if it is not disposed of properly. As a healthcare professional, I am very happy our children will not have to live with these dangerous materials in our landfills."

Act 50 is modeled after similar legislation in Minnesota. It establishes recycling quotas based on a manufacturer's market share and allows for the sale or banking of recycling credits that exceed these goals. The law provides additional incentive to recover electronic devices from rural areas. These electronic devices contain health hazards such as cadmium, lead, mercury, chromium and brominated flame retardants. They can also contain valuable materials such as gold and platinum that will be valuable to recover and reuse.

Even before taking effect, the new law has already shown a positive economic impact, Rep. Bernard Schaber noted. "Earlier this year, I was invited to tour STEP industries in Neenah. They have expanded their operations to include an E-Waste recycling division. It's great to see that this law is already helping businesses expand and create jobs."

###

DISTRICT  
(920) 739-9001  
815 E. Washington St.  
Appleton, WI 54911  
[rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov](mailto:rep.bernardschaber@legis.wi.gov)

STATE CAPITOL  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708  
FAX: (608) 282-3657  
Toll-free: (888) 534-0057 or (608) 266-3070